GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1806
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Manual Scavenging in Railways
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways employs the largest number of manual scavengers, disguised as sweepers;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether barring few trains, the Indian Railways does not use any technology to clean toilets and tracks;
(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the details of technology used for the above purposes along with the name of stations, trains, etc. where it is used?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.
(c) to (e): All protective gear and devices notified by the Government are provided to persons directly involved in cleaning of water flush latrines of Railway passenger coaches. Contracts for mechanized cleaning, rag picking and garbage disposal are awarded for ensuring proper cleanliness at stations. In such cleaning contracts, terms and conditions exist for usage of prescribed protective gear and uniform including boots, aprons, gloves etc., by the persons involved in the cleaning of tracks and platforms.
Mechanized coach cleaning equipments viz., floor scrubbers, vacuum cleaners, high pressure jet cleaning machines are being used in most of the depots covering Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duranto, Mail / Express and Passenger trains maintained in their washing lines. It has also been planned to provide washable aprons at 305 stations' platform lines where trains stop for longer duration in the morning hours.

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